United Nations E/C.2/2009/2/Add.23

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 March 2009

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2009 resumed session
18-27 May 2009

Quadrennial reports for the period 2004-2007 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	China Care and Compassion Society	2
2.	Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace	4
3.	Woods Hole Research Center	8
4.	World Association of the Major Metropolises	10
5.	World Council of Independent Christian Churches	12

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

09-25937 (E) 020409

Please recycle

1. China Care and Compassion Society (Special; 2004)

PART I. Introduction

i. Aims and purposes: China Care and Compassion Society (CCCS) shall carry forward the spirit of science and humanity; care for people's physical and mental health; concern for social vulnerable groups; dedicate to creating harmonious communities and families through training, educating, and consulting; promote sustainable and coordinated social development. CCCS upholds the tenets and principles of *The Charter of the United Nations* and *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, launches activities for education, popularization of human right concept and knowledge to facilitate healthy and stability of the society in China.

Main course of action: (1) Organize public activities about science, culture, sports, hygiene and health care; address the issues of development in families and communities. (2) Establish the website "Care and Concern"; provide consultation, services and relevant legal aid for physical and mental health; help socially vulnerable groups to solve their problems. (3) Carry out research and investigation on issues such as physical and mental health of people, development of harmonious society, make comments and suggestions to the government. (4) Communicate with foreign organizations and individuals, carry out international dialogue and cooperation, and participate in the relevant United Nation activities and international conferences.

PART II - Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies and /or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

Representatives of CCCS participated in the 59th Annual Department of Public Information/ Non-governmental Organization (DPI/NGO) Conference with the topic "Unfinished Business: Effective Partnerships for Human Security and Sustainable Development", held at the United Nations, New York, 6-8 September 2006. They also participated in meetings on "Promoting Respect for Cultural Diversity in Conflict Resolution" and "Science and Technology for Education", and "Forgiveness: Partnering with the Enemy" and "Livelihood Protection through Animal Welfare; Education, Youth and Technology for Sustainable Development" etc.

Submitted a written statement to the 59th DPI/NGO Conference on the topic: "Realize the Millennium Development Goals: Family Harmony and Youth Development".

Participated in the 1st Conference of the UN-NGO-Informal Regional Network (IRENE)/Asia-Pacific held in Beijing, China on 17 March 2006. The representative gave a speech at the meeting.

Participated in the 2nd Conferences of the UN-NGO-Informal Regional Network (IRENE)/Asia-Pacific held in Beijing, China on 22 June 2007 and provided a paper and information on "Migrant Families and Children".

ii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals.

1. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals.

During 2004-2007, CCCS reviewed ECOSOC/UN reports on China's implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). CCCS considered that the efforts and achievements made by the Chinese government, society and people for implementing MDGs had been appraised in comprehensive, active and objective ways in the reports. At the same time, CCCS paid more attention to the topics in the reports, such as "China has made great achievements in its reform, but also encountered new poverty", "The widening gap between the rich and the poor in China" and "Narrowing the gap is an imperative task in China".

During 2004-2007, the CCCS Standing Committee adopted a resolution on its implementation of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

2. Activities in support of the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: Attended the 2nd Conference of the UN-NGO-IRENE/Asia-Pacific held in Beijing, China on 22 June 2007, with the subject "Eradicate Poverty and Hunger –Responsibility and Role of the Civil Society". CCCS made a speech entitled "Concern for the Life Situation and Psychological Health of Rural Left-behind Children".

Goal 2 – Achieve universal primary education: CCCS jointly organized an international conference on "Cross-cultural Dialogue on Youth Education" with NGOs (World Family Policy Center of Brigham Young University; Qatar Supreme Council of Family Affairs; TATA Institute of Social Science, India; Chinese Society of Philosophy of Nature, Science and Technology etc.) from 21-25 May 2005 in Beijing, China. The following topics were discussed: (1) Comparison study on approaches for ideological and moral education for oriental and western teenagers; (2) Importance of family education to adolescent growth; (3) Cultivation of teenagers' scientific value view and cognitive ability, etc.

Representatives of CCCS made a speech entitled "Realizing the New Goal for Family and Adolescent development" at the "China's NGO Forum – Realize Millennium Development Goals" in Beijing in July 2005.

Goal 5 – Improve maternal health: During 2004-2007, CCCS with its local organizations jointly held lectures on physical and mental health and organized community activities to take care of old-age groups; established the "Care and Concern" website and published brochures to pay attention to poverty reduction, medical aid, mental health, community & family care.

CCCS Members donated (through Red Cross Society of China) money to earthquake-induced tsunami-hit countries in the Indian Ocean region on 4 January of 2005, and letters of condolence or telegraphs to the Red Cross Societies Red Crescent Societies of India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

3. Activities in Support of Global Principle

During the International Day for Families, CCCS launched an international conference on "Cross-Cultural Dialogue: Family Harmony and Youth Growth" in Beijing, Shandong, China with NGOs (TATA Institute of Social Sciences, India; School of Family Life, Brigham Young University, United States of America; Chinese Family Magazine; the Network of China Family and Marriage; China Association of Science Instructors for Youth and Children; etc.) from 15–18 May 2007. The topics included: (1) Current family issues under multi-cultural conditions; (2) Family culture and children education; (3) Migrant family and family education; (4) Excellent practice of family participating in social development, etc. The Director of the Outreach Division of DPI/United Nations was present at the forum. The participants visited families in the Beijing community, and learned about Chinese traditional family education and culture with discussion of the modern family issues in Qufu, Shandong.

2. Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace* (Special; 2004)

Part 1: Introduction

Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (IIFWP) is a global alliance of thousands of individuals and organizations in 120 nations with the vision of humanity as one family under God, living in accordance with universal principles. IIFWP's core objectives are to promote interreligious dialogue and cooperation, to support good governance by providing a framework that integrates the contributions of religion, governments, media and non-governmental organizations in the pursuit of peace, to sponsor education initiatives in the critical areas of human rights, Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and conflict resolution, and to build a culture of peace through education, sports, arts and service. While the Organization's aims and purposes remained the same, the name IIFWP has been changed to the Universal Peace Federation (UPF). This change was approved by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its regular session, 21-30 January 2008.

*Currently known as Universal Peace Federation.

Part 2: Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

During the reporting period, IIFWP representatives attended the following:

2004: (i) 22 March: Bangkok, Thailand. World Meteorological Day events at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; (ii) 2 July: Bangkok, Thailand. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: "The Spirit of Sao Paolo." (iii) 13-14 September: United Nations headquarters, New York. International Conference of Civil Society in Support of the Palestinian People.

2005: (i) 10-14 January: Port Louis, Mauritius. International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States; (ii) 18-25 April: Bangkok, Thailand. 11th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on "Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice." IIFWP attended, presented an oral statement, and organized an ancillary session titled, "Strategic Alliances in the War against Corruption: States, Families, Educational Institutions, and Religious and Faith-based NGOs"; (iii) 14 March – 22 April: United Nations, Geneva. 61st Commission on Human Rights, IIFWP representatives held consultations on draft resolutions on the right to development (Item 7), combating defamation of religions (Item 6,) and made a joint oral statement on Item 14: Specific groups and individuals; (iv) 21-22 July: United Nations, Geneva. United Nations Social Forum on "Poverty and economic growth: challenges to human rights", IIFWP contributed to recommendations of poverty reduction strategies submitted to Sub-Commission on the promotion and the protection of Human Rights at its 57th session; (v) 25 July – 12 August: United Nations, Geneva. 57th Session of the Sub-Commission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, IIFWP contributed to the discussion on human rights and responsibilities.

2006: (i) 8-17 February: United Nations, New York. 44th Session of the Commission for Social Development, submitted one oral statement, "Perspectives and Alliances Addressing the Root Causes of Poverty and Advancing the Development Agenda"; (ii) 13-27 March: United Nations, Geneva. 62nd Commission on Human Rights, IIFWP submitted one joint written, titled "Human Rights of Older Persons" and one joint oral statement at the final session titled, "NGO Statement to the Final Session of the Commission on Human Rights"; (iii) 2–5 July: United Nations, Geneva. Economic and Social Council meeting on "Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development"; (iv) 3-4 August: United Nations, Geneva. Social Forum on "The fight against poverty and the right to participation: the role of women", IIFWP contributed to recommendations submitted to the Sub-Commission at its 58th session.

2007: (i) 27-29 June: United Nations, Vienna. 7th Global Forum on Reinventing Government; (ii) 2-5 July: United Nations, Geneva. Economic and Social Council Substantive Session Annual Ministerial Review (AMR): "Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through

the global partnership for development", IIFWP contributed to panel discussions and consultations; (iii) 17-18 September: United Nations, Vienna. Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty; (iv) 4-5 October: United Nations, New York. High-Level Dialogue on "Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace."

2004-2007: United Nations headquarters, New York: (i) IIFWP attend the 48th, 49th, 50th and 51st sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, 1-12 March 2004, 28 February-11 March 2005, 27 February-10 March 2006, and 26 February to 9 March respectively; (ii) IIFWP attended the 57th, 58th, 59th and 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conferences, 8-10 September 2004, 7-9 September 2005, 6-8 September 2006, and 5-7 September 2007 respectively.

ii) Other meetings: Dr. Alan Saunders participated in the monthly meetings of the Committee on HIV/AIDS of the Conference of NGO in consultative relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) from March 2005 until the present time. He was appointed the vice chairman of the committee in May, 2006. In 2008, he was unanimously voted in as the chairman of the committee.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field or at Headquarters

2004: (i) 10 September: United Nations headquarters, New York. The Religious Youth Service, a project of IIFWP, co-sponsored a Midday Workshop with other NGOs at the 57th DPI/NGO Conference, entitled "The Role of NGO's in Overcoming Poverty through Education"; (ii) 18 October: United Nations, New York. IIFWP supported the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in hosting the "World Food Day Ceremony and Reception" on the theme "A Bio-Diversity for Food Security".

2005: (i) 1 November: United Nations, Geneva. IIFWP co-sponsored a conference with the Mission of Burundi and the International Bureau for Humanitarian Issues on "Challenge and Change for Global Governance and Civil Society: From Peace Councils to Peace Nations"; (ii) 1 December: United Nations, New York. IIFWP co-sponsored a conference on World AIDS Day, with the Missions of Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Malawi, Nigeria, Tuvalu, and Zambia to the United Nations.

2006: (i) 9-11 February: Monrovia, Liberia. IIFWP organized a conference on "The Challenges for Good Governance, Reconciliation and Peace for Liberia: the Role of Peace Councils" in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the United States Agency for International Development; (ii) 16 March: United Nations, New York. IIFWP co-sponsored the forum on "New Alliances for Peace in the 21st Century: The Relevance of Interreligious Understanding and Cooperation to Reconciliation, Peacebuilding and Development" with the Permanent Missions of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Timor-Leste.

2007: United Nations, New York: 27 February Religious Youth Service, a project of IIFWP, co-sponsored a parallel event with other NGOs during the 51st sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women under the title, "Transforming Value Systems to Eliminate Violence and Discrimination Against and Enhance the Status of the Girl Child".

iii. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education. Target 3: Ensure that children everywhere will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. **Actions:** Religious Youth Service, a project of IIFWP, provided the infrastructure to primary education by: (i) Building 6 schools in China, Guatemala, Honduras, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Zambia; (ii) Restoring 8 schools in Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malaysia, Palau, the Solomon Islands, and Sri Lanka.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases. Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. **Actions:** IIFWP sponsored and conducted: (i) HIV/AIDS prevention and character education workshops, training over 1,200 teachers and peer educators in 26 countries throughout Oceania, Southeast Asia, Central America, and Africa; (ii) Implemented HIV/AIDS prevention and character education programs reaching over 100,000 students in 57 schools in the Philippines, 10 schools in Saint Lucia, 8 schools in the United States, 4 schools in Belize, and 2 schools in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

iv. Activities in Support of Global Principles

2004: (i) 28 May: Moscow, Russian Federation, Conference "Strengthening Family is a factor for social stability," on the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Family; (ii) 24-27 May: Jerusalem, Israel. Women for Peace, an initiative of IIFWP, held a conference titled, "Women of Peace" which brought 492 women from 26 countries to spread the message of peacebuilding through women and families; (iii) 19-21 September: Port Harcourt, Nigeria. In observance of the International Day of Peace, the Religious Youth Service, held a celebration rally and youth march in conjunctions with local schools and other NGOs.

2005: (i) 26-28 May: Moscow. IIFWP held a program on, "New Approaches to Peace and Stability in Northeast Asia"; (ii) 3 November: United Nations, New York. In support of World AIDS Day, IIFWP conducted a forum on the theme "Intensifying HIV Prevention".

2006: (i) 1 June: Moscow. In honor of the International Day for the Protection of Children, IIFWP held conference on "Character Education of Youth: Practical Experience and Prospects of Social Partnership"; (ii) 5 October: United Nations, New York. IIFWP co-sponsored with Media Global the "Global Media Compact Launch in Partnership with the United Nations".

2007: At the United Nations Headquarters New York: (i) 8 February: IIFWP hosted a luncheon titled, "Peace and Security in Northeast Asia"; (ii) 21 April: IIFWP sponsored a panel forum on the topic, "Crisis in Darfur"; (iii) 21 May: IIFWP held a briefing on the Middle East Peace Initiative, a project of IIFWP; (iv) 21 September: United States of America: In celebration of the International Day of Peace, IIFWP organized 128 events in 41 states, mobilizing over 15,000 participants for peace.

3. Woods Hole Research Center (Special; 1996)

PART I—Introduction

The Woods Hole Research Center (WHRC), a nongovernmental scientific and policy research organization, is actively engaged in various global environmental issues, particularly those relating to climate change and forests. Center staff members have participated in many United Nations meetings in the period between 2004 and 2007. The WHRC plans to continue these activities, as well as cooperate with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies as opportunities arise.

The WHRC was founded in 1985 with the purpose of defining and defending the global human habitat, its forests, its soils, its water, and its biological and functional integrity. It conducts research, identifies public policies, and supports educational activities that advance the well-being of humans and of the environment. The institution's mission is to understand the causes and consequences of environmental change as a basis for policy solutions for a better world. The WHRC specializes in ecological research on land use in the historically forested regions, including the Amazon Basin, Eurasia, the Congo Basin, the Albertine Rift, and North America. The Center works locally and regionally, assisting communities with resource management, and internationally to promote policies that stabilize climate and protect the integrity of the global environment. The importance of developing country and nongovernmental organization participation is emphasized in these efforts, as is support for the flow of objective data and analyses into United Nations processes. The insights of science and international law are applied to help resolve the political dilemmas of global environmental problems.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

Representatives of the WHRC's staff attended several meetings of United Nations related bodies during the period 2004-2007, in particular those meetings related to climate change issues.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): (i) UNFCCC COP 10 and Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SBI-21/SBSTA-21) 6-17 December 2004, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Dr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna participated in two side events at the Tenth Conference of the Parties. He co-moderated a panel on the topic "Sensible Directions on HFCs: Global Innovation in Technology and Policy Solutions"; Dr. Ramakrishna also served as a panelist at the Youth and Experts Roundtable discussion ; (ii) UNFCCC COP 11/CMP 1 and Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SBI-23/SBSTA-23) 28 November – 9 December 2005, Montreal, Canada, Members of the Center staff, including Drs. Kilparti Ramakrishna, Daniel Nepstad, and Paulo Moutinho, participated in two side events at the Eleventh Conference of the Parties. The first was sponsored by the WHRC's sister organization, the Amazon Institute for Environmental Research (IPAM), and focused on tropical

deforestation and climate change mitigation. The second side event was presented jointly with several international NGOs and research entities, and focused on land use, land use change, and forestry. In addition to the organization of and participation in side events, members of the WHRC staff were also instrumental in the release of the publication "Tropical Deforestation and Climate Change" at COP 11; (iii) UNFCCC Workshop on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries 30 August – 1 September 2006, Rome, Italy, the Eleventh Conference of the Parties requested that the UNFCCC Secretariat organize a workshop on reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries. Dr. Richard Houghton of the Woods Hole Research Center was invited by the Secretariat to participate as a technical export in this workshop, entitled "Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries"; (iv) UNFCCC COP 12/CMP 2 and Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SBI-25/SBSTA-25) 6-17 November 2006, Nairobi, Kenya, the WHRC played an active role in the proceedings of the 12th Conference of the Parties in Nairobi, Kenya. The staff led sessions on compensating avoided deforestation and other "win-win" options that incorporate both climate policy and development strategy. WHRC staff presented one poster and released two documents: "Linking Climate Policy with Development Strategy", and "Measuring and Monitoring the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Tropical Deforestation", which was coauthored by scientists from the WHRC, Amazon Institute for Environmental Research (IPAM), and the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil; (v) UNFCCC COP 13/CMP 3 and Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SBI-27/SBSTA-27) 3-15 December 2007, Bali, Indonesia, the WRC participated in the UNFCCC's 13th Conference of the Parties in several capacities. Drs. John Holdren and Daniel Nepstad and others from the Center led one side event, and staff members participated with cosponsors in seven additional side events. Eight new technical reports (five produced exclusively by WHRC authors) were disseminated and fifteen presentations were given in conjunction with these side events. The Center's two main foci at Bali were its ongoing work on integrating climate policy with development strategy, and furthering the development of the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) initiative.

Sustainable Development: Nitrogen Policy Workshop co-hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Woods Hole Research Center, 8-10 March 2006, Paris, France, WHRC in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, hosted a workshop on international nitrogen policy that was coordinated by Dr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna and attended by Drs. Ramakrishna and Eric Davidson. Subsequent to the workshop, Dr. Davidson became a co-chair of the editorial committee for a joint UNEP-WHRC publication entitled "Reactive Nitrogen in the Environment: Too Much or Too Little of a Good Thing", which was released in 2007. This document synthesizes the scientific understanding of how nitrogen cycling affects ecosystems, human health, and the economy; as well as reviews the effectiveness of the policy instruments that are currently in place in various parts of the world. The WHRC's ongoing work on Linking Climate Policy to Development Strategy in Brazil, China, and India has been spearheaded by Dr. John Holdren since 2005. In collaboration with governments, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions in the United States of America and abroad, staff members at the WHRC endeavor to find "win-win" options for clean, sustainable development in these three developing nations. Strategies under investigation currently include compensation for avoided deforestation, clean coal technologies, clean transportation technologies, and development and dissemination of improved residential cookstoves.

ii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals: Goal 7, Ensure environmental sustainability.

The Center continued to work in almost all areas where relatively large tracts of natural forest remain, including boreal North America, the Amazon Basin, and Central and Eastern Africa. Recent activities have focused on enabling the sustainable use of forested regions by local populations in developing countries. Additionally, the Center explored options to integrate local forest use with regional and national development goals, as well as strategies to incorporate standing forests into a future carbon accounting mechanism.

4. World Association of the Major Metropolises (Special; 2004)

PART I: Introduction

Metropolis is the World Association of Major Metropolises and also the metropolitan section of the United Cities & Local Government organization (UCLG), which arose from the merger between the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) and the United Towns Organization (UTO). Its mission is to promote international cooperation and exchanges among members, i.e., local and metropolitan governments. Metropolis is the spokesperson on cities' interests in international forums. The metropolises are shaping the 21st century. While individually different, they share modern-day concerns on issues such as urban planning and development, the economy, health, environmental matters, transport, infrastructure and communications. Created in 1985, the Metropolis Association is represented by more than 106 member cities from across the world and operates as an international forum for exploring issues and concerns common to all big cities. The main goal of the association is to better control the development process of metropolitan areas in order to enhance the wellbeing of their citizens. To do this, Metropolis represents regions and metropolitan areas at the worldwide level and is recognized as a major player by large international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank and others.

PART II: Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) **Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations Meetings**:

Participated in the following activities: (i) 2004: 2nd United Nations-Habitat World Urban Forum (13-17 September, Barcelona, Spain); (ii) Symposium on "Monitoring Urban Inequalities using GIS" in collaboration with United Nations-Habitat's Global Urban Observatory (GUO) as part of the 2nd World Urban Forum (13-17 September, Barcelona, Spain).

2005: (i) World Conference on Disaster Reduction (18-22 January, Kobe, Japan); (ii) Beijing+10 meeting and the parallel event entitled "Localizing the MDGs: Women Leading Global Change" (28 February, Beijing, China); (iii) United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CDS-13), (12 April, United Nations Headquarters, New York); (iv) United Nations-Habitat Governing

Council and United Nations Advisory Council of Local Authorities (UNACLA) (16-20 April, Nairobi, Kenya); (v) World Platform for the reduction of risks and catastrophes (3-5 June, Geneva, Switzerland) with the presence of the United Nations Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs; (vi) Informal Interactive Hearings, Economic and Social Council, United Nations Headquarters, New York (23-24 June); (vii) High Level Segment, Economic and Social Council, United Nations Headquarters, New York (29 June – 1 July); (viii) Mission of the Commission on Metropolitan Performance Measurements to the Islamic Republic of Iran conducted by United Nations-Habitat (3-9 July, Islamic Republic of Iran); (ix) UCLG delegation met Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations (7-9 September, United Nations Headquarters, New York); (x) Cities Alliance meeting, Marrakech, Morocco (7-10 November); (xi) Presentation of the Declaration on Climate Change at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (28 November – 9 December, Montreal, Canada); (xii) Organization of the Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change in the framework of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (5-7 December, Montreal, Canada)

2006: (i) Organized the "Activating Urban Indicators" training workshop jointly with the Simon Fraser University (17-18 June, Vancouver, Canada) in the framework of the World Urban Forum; (ii) United Nations Advisory Council of Local Authorities (UNACLA) (8 February, Washington DC); (iii) "Urban Policies and the Right to the City" jointly with United Nations-Habitat and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (27-28 March, Barcelona, Spain); (iv) 3rd United Nations-Habitat World Urban Forum (19-23 June, Vancouver, Canada); (v) Joint event with United Nations-Habitat on "Urban Millennium Partnership – Localizing MDG" (19-23 June, Vancouver, Canada)

2007: (i) Joint meeting with the United Nations-Habitat Global Urban Observatory (GUO) (June, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran); (ii) United Nations-Habitat International Guidelines on Decentralization (September, United Nations Headquarters, New York)

ii) **Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or Headquarters**:

The following were: (i) Standing Commission on Metropolitan Performance Measurements in collaboration with the Global Urban Observatory (GUO) of United Nations-Habitat (2004-2008); (ii) Cooperation Agreement between United Nations-Habitat in different activities: Global Campaign on Urban Governance, The Global Observatory of Local Democracy (GOLD), the Urban Millennium Partnership, the Advisory Group of Experts on Decentralization (AGRED), and the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA); (iii) Cooperation Agreement with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); (iv) Agreement on "Water Management" with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (May 2005); (v) Project "Peacekeeping Operations" jointly with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO); (vi) Continuous collaboration with Cities Alliance on cooperation related issues (2004-2007).

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, which now form the basis of the global agenda for the 21st century

Goal 3 - Promote gender equality and empower women: (i) International conference on Women and Local Politics (December 2005, Montreal, Canada); (ii) Metropolis Women's Net working group meeting (December 2005, Montreal, Canada); (iii) Participation at the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) meeting (February 2006, Washington D.C.); (iv) Participation at the 4th World Water Forum with the presentation: *Gender Mainstreaming and Water for Growth and Development: Diversity as an Agent of Change* (March 2006, Mexico D.F., Mexico); (v) Organization of the First International Forum on Dynamic Cities Need Women: Political Actions for Gender Equality (3-5 December 2007, Brussels, Belgium)

Goal 7 - Ensure environmental sustainability: (i) Summit of Local Leaders on climate change (December 2005, Montreal, Canada); (ii) Metropolis Commission 1 meeting on: Governance and the Urban Environment, Open Spaces Management: Semi-Urban Agriculture and Biodiversity, and Sustainable Tourism (12-16 June, 2006, Toronto, Canada); (iii) Eco-Region Training Course Report (5-7 July, 2007, Montreal, Canada)

Goal 8 - Develop a global partnership for development: (i) Technical meeting and working group on "Bank of Cities Project" (16-19 September 2007, Antananarivo, Madagascar)

5. World Council of Independent Christian Churches Special; 1996)

Part I. Introduction

i. Aim, purposes and main course of action of the organization

The World Council of Independent Christian Churches (WCICC) is an organization created to provide support to independent Christian churches, pastor, ministers, schools and individuals in underdeveloped nations and around the world. The WCICC believes that we help fill a need for denominational support amongst independent churches. The WCICC helps to provide that with a wide variety of programs that promote fellowship, inter-communion, mutual ecclesiastical collaboration, training and support for independent congregations and clergy. The WCICC believes that it is very important for every individual to maintain the rights afforded to them under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with a special focus on Article 18 "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance." It is one of the WCICC's goals to disseminate information regarding religious tyranny and oppression of all forms around the world, in order to end suppression of the right to freedom of religion and any violations to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

ii. Any Change that may have had a significant impact on the organization

The WCICC suffered a major setback on 1 January 2001 when a fire destroyed the office. In the years 2004-2007, the WCICC made strides in rebuilding the organization and participation in United Nations activity increased over the four year period and will continue to do so.

Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

Representatives attended the Annual Department of Public Information/NGO (DPI/NGO) Conferences: (i) 57th Conference, Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action, 8-10 September 2004 United Nations Headquarters, New York; (ii) 58th Conference, Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal", 7-9 September 2005, United Nations Headquarters, New York; (iii) 59th Conference, Unfinished Business: Effective Partnership for Human Security and Sustainable Development, 6-8 September 2006, United Nations Headquarters, New York; (iv) 60th Conference Climate Change: How It Impacts Us All", 5 -7 September 2007, United Nations Headquarters, New York; (v) 6th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 14 to 25 May 2007, United Nations Headquarters, New York City; (vi) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 51st Session, 26 February to 9 March 2007, United Nations Headquarters, New York . In addition to attending the Commission on the Status of Women's 51st Session, the WCICC organized a parallel event to the conference entitled "Religious Freedom and Discrimination in the Village". This panel was organized to discuss religious freedom and discrimination in the villages of India as it relates to women and the girl child. Representatives from the WCICC also participated in the "Informal Interactive Hearing with Civil Society, including Non-Governmental Organizations and the Private Sector of the High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace" on 4 October 2007 at the United Nations headquarter in New York.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The WCICC has worked in collaboration with several United Nations bodies in order to further our main goals. The WCICC has worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to provide assistance in digging wells in underdeveloped nations. The WCICC has also participated with observer status in meetings with the United Nations Development Programme discussing sustainable development in Sub-Saharan Africa. The WCICC coordinated well digging activities in Malawi with UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund).

iii) Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1 - Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. Target 3: Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. **ACTIONS**: Since its inception in 1992, the WCICC, through our National Directors, has developed numerous food distribution programs. With the cooperation of local churches and pastors as distribution points, we have managed to maintain and grow these programs in the

following nations since: Bangladesh - 12 November 2006; Benin - 23 June 2007; Botswana - 10 July 2007; Cote D'Ivoire - 9 July 2007; Ghana - 5 February 2007; Haiti - 21 September 2006; Kenya - 15 August 2006; Nepal - 24 May 2007; Romania - 10 July 2007; Sri Lanka - 8 July 2007 and Zambia - 7 October 2005.

Goal 2 - Achieve universal primary education: ACTIONS: The WCICC has developed an education program through Mt. Sinai International Seminary making education available to pastors with no tuition payments.

Goal 3 - Promote gender equality and empower women: ACTIONS: The WCICC is working with the International Foundation for Minority Empowerment to promote education and advancement of women.

Goal 4 - Reduce child mortality: ACTIONS: The WCICC is working in conjunction with Save a Girl Child to prevent female infanticide and foeticide in India by providing education, media support and women's groups.

Goal 8 - Develop a global partnership for development: ACTIONS: The WCICC is working with Indian villages to sell Fair Trade crafts to promote development.